

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03643 281347Z

53

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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R 281327Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1329
INFO USCINCSO
DIA DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3643

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MORG, AR, US
SUBJECT: SENATOR PAZ EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER DOWNGRADING OF
CO USMILGP

1. AT LATTER'S REQUEST, AMB. HILL CALLED ON SENATOR EDUARDO PAZ MAY 23 JUST BEFORE DEPARTING FOR LEAVE IN US. PAZ, AS CHAIRMAN OF SENATE DEFENSE COMMITTEE, INDICATED HE HAD WISHED TO SEE AMB. BEFORE LATTER DEPARTED SO THAT HE COULD ASSURE HIM THAT ANAYA'S REPLACEMENT BY ALBERTO NUMA LAPLANE AS COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE ARMY IN NO WAY IMPLIED A BASIC CHANGE IN THE POSTURE OF THE ARMY. LATTER REMAINED COMMITTED TO CONSTITUTIONALISM AND TO THE DEFENSE OF THE ELECTED CIVILIAN AUTHORITIES.

2. PAS THEN RAISED ISSUE OF DOWNGRADING RANK OF COMMANDING OFFICER OF USMILGP FROM GENERAL OFFICER TO COLONEL. (THIS WAS PROBABLY REAL PURPOSE IN ASKING AMB. HILL TO SEE HIM.). PAZ SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH GEN. LAPLANE AND WITH A NUMBER OF KEY SENATORS. REDUCTION OF NUMBERS OF MILGP PERSONNEL WAS UNDERSTANDABLE TO ARGENTINES, HE SAID, IN VIEW OF SECURITY SITUATION AND NEED FOR LOWER PROFILE. THAT THERE WOULD BE NO US OFFICER OF GENERAL/FLAG RANK IN ARGENTINA AT SAME TIME THERE WERE THREE

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 03643 281347Z

IN BRAZIL, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD. INDEED,

IT WOULD PROBABLY BE SEEN AS AN AFFRONT TO ARGENTINA.
PAZ SAID GEN. LAPLANE WAS EXERCISED OVER REDUCTION
IN RANK AND INTENDED TO WRITE LETTER TO PENTAGON
REQUESTING REVERSAL OF OPINION.
MONTLLOR

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NNN

Message Attributes

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